

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 02140 261717Z

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2140

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, XG

SUBJECT: CSCE POLICY: VOLUNTARY NATURE OF MANEUVER CBM--NEW
SOVIET FORMULA

REF: GENEVA 1897

1. AT LUNCH MARCH 26 WITH US DELOFF, MENDELEVICH GAVE US NEW LANGUAGE WHICH SOVIETS PROPOSE TO COVER THE VOLUNTARY NATURE OF THE MANEUVER CBM COMMITMENT. IT IS MUCH CLOSER TO WHAT THE ALLIES CAN PERHAPS EVENTUALLY ACCEPT THAN THE FIRST SOVIET FORMULA TRANSMITTED PARA 2 REFTEL.

2. THE NEW SOVIET LANGUAGE READS AS FOLLOWS: "THE PARTICIPATING STATES (NATURE OF COMMITMENT) NOTIFY ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS ALL OTHER STATES PARTICIPATING IN THE CSCE OF MAJOR MILITARY MANOEUVRES OF TROOPS, TOGETHER WITH ANY POSSIBLE AIR OR NAVAL COMPONENTS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS:"

3. MENDELEVICH STRESSED THAT, SO FAR, NEITHER THE SOVIETS' PROPOSED LANGUAGE NOR THEIR INTENTION TO OFFER PRECISE FIGURES (30-35,000 TROOPS) FOR "ARMY OR ARMY CORPS" HAD BEEN DIVULGED TO ANY OTHER DELEGATION. HE THEREFORE ASKED THAT WE CONTINUE TO TREAT BOTH POINTS AS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL FOR THE TIME BEING.DALE

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 02140 261717Z

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